

I'd like to encourage you to crack down on wireless phone companies use of official-sounding extra fees on consumers' bills. I had always assumed that the surcharge rates listed on my bill were regulated by the government, since most of them cite federal, state or local regulations. It wasn't until recently that I learned from CNN and other media outlets that wireless carriers can charge whatever they want above and beyond their costs for complying with regulations. This is a rip off. It's deceptive advertising, since these fees are not included in the plan price when consumers sign a contract for service. My \$30 plan with Cingular costs me another \$8 in fees per month. That's a 27% charge, and it's outrageous. If companies want to pass along the costs of doing business to their consumers, that's their prerogative, but they need to tell us so we can make informed decisions and comparisons when shopping. They should not label charges in a way that confuses consumers about the nature of the charges, and they should include any and all discretionary charges in the service plan price they quote. Thanks for reviewing my comment.